

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 276727
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TO USMISSION USNATO
INFO DEPT OF DEFENSE/DOD/ISA DAVID E MCGIFFERT
CIA/D/NFAC ROBERT R BOWIE

S E C R E T STATE 276727

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 18456 SENT ACTION SECSTATE NOV 09.
QUOTE S E C R E T LONDON 18456

NODIS

FROM GELB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM UK
SUBJECT: SALT: CONSULTATIONS WITH UK

1. I MET NOV 8 WITH PATRICK MOBERLY, ASSISTANT UNDER
SECRETARY IN THE FCO, AND THREE OF HIS COLLEAGUES FROM
THE FCO AND MINISTRY OF DEFENCE. THEY WERE IMPRESSED BY
THE SALT AGREEMENT AS IT SEEMS TO BE SHAPING UP AS A
WHOLE, WERE DELIGHTED ABOUT APPARENT SOVIET ACCEPTANCE
OF CRUISE MISSILE TESTING PROVISIONS, BUT STILL MADE
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CLEAR THEY WANTED THEIR GOODIES--US PUBLIC OBEISANCE TO
FACT THAT CRUISE MISSILE RANGE LIMITS ARE ONLY FOR THREE

YEARS WITH NO PREJUDICE AND NO US AGREEMENT TO RESTRICTIVE
NON-CIRCUMVENTION PROVISIONS. BELIEVE BOTTOM LINE
IS BRITISH WILL SUPPORT AGREEMENT CLEARLY IN THE END,
BUT WANT TO APPLY PRESSURE UNTIL THEN.

2. ON POLITICAL SIDE, I ALSO GAVE THEM THE SENSE THAT CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORTERS OF PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENT WERE NOW GETTING THEMSELVES ORGANIZED, AND THAT WHILE COMPLICATED ARMS CONTROL MATTERS LIKE THIS ARE DIFFICULT IN CONGRESS, WE'RE CONFIDENT WE CAN CARRY THE SENATE WITH US. I THINK THEY BELIEVED ME--AND EVEN ASKED WHY SENATOR JACKSON HAD BEEN SO QUIET (SIC).

3. I MADE ALL, REPEAT ALL, THE APPROPRIATE CAVEATS ABOUT EVERYTHING, SO WON'T INCLUDE THEM IN THIS ACCOUNT.

4. I TOOK THE FOLLOWING APPROACH WITH THE BRITISH:
-- PROSPECTIVE SALT AGREEMENT IS A GOOD ONE WHICH HELPS TO IMPROVE EAST-WEST RELATIONS AS WE AND ALLIES DESIRE;

-- IT WILL ENHANCE STRATEGIC STABILITY, EVEN AS WE CONTINUE TO PAY PRIORITY ATTENTION TO NATO THEATRE NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL FORCE BALANCES;
-- AS SHAPING UP, IT MEETS ESSENTIAL ALLIED CON-

CERNS ABOUT NO FBS, NO ALLIED COMPENSATION, KEEPING OPEN CRUISE MISSILE OPTIONS, AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION LANGUAGE AS THEY KNOW IT;

-- WITHOUT A SHADOW OF DOUBT, IT WILL BE A MAJOR BLOCK ON TOP OF VLADIVOSTOK AND FAR BETTER THAN NO AGREEMENT;

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-- TOLD THEM IN GENERAL TERMS ABOUT NEW SOVIET POSITION ON CRUISE MISSILE TEST RANGES;

-- TOLD THEM OF OUR PROPOSED CRUISE MISSILE RANGE DEFINITION;

-- REMINDED THEM OF 600 KMS LIMITATION ON OTHER THAN HEAVY BOMBERS IN TREATY.

5. MOBERLY INTERRUPTED ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:
-- THINKS ALL CRUISE MISSILE NEWS IS JOLLY GOOD AND US SHOULD BE PROUD OF ACHIEVEMENTS, BUT
-- WHAT ABOUT THAT ARTICLE IN THE ECONOMIST THAT SAYS WE PROMISED SOVIETS NO TRANSFER OF CRUISE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TO ALLIES (MORE IN SEPTEL);
-- THEY NEED PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT TEMPORARY NATURE OF RESTRAINTS IN PROTOCOL;
-- THEY THINK THEY MAY WANT TECHNOLOGY FOR STRATEGIC SLCMS AND ARE FEARFUL THAT NON-CIRCUMVENTION MIGHT MEAN THEY CAN'T HAVE IT.

6. I REASSURED THEM THAT THEY KNOW ALL THERE PRESENTLY IS TO KNOW ABOUT OUR POSITION ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION. THEY DIDN'T SEEM REASSURED ENOUGH, OR AT LEAST,

PRETENDED NOT TO BE. I PLEDGED CONTINUED CONSULTATIONS
ON THIS.

7. AFTER I MADE ARGUMENT THAT WE GOT MORE THAN WE GAVE
BY NOT PRESSING FOR SSX-20, MOBERLY BROUGHT UP GRAY AREA
SYSTEMS AS "SOMETHING WE ARE BEGINNING TO THINK ABOUT."
HE SAID THEY WERE DOING A STUDY WITH A SMALL "S".
BORROWING LINE FROM THEM, I ASKED TO KEEP US INFORMED,
IF NOT CONSULTED.

8. CONVERSATION DRIFTED TO SCHMIDT SPEECH. THEY
ALLOWED AS THEY DIDN'T AGREE WITH SCHMIDT THAT PROSPEC-
TIVE SALT III AGREEMENT WOULD CEMENT PARITY IN A NEW
WAY, OR ADVERSELY AFFECT OTHER EUROPEAN BALANCES.

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9. I ASKED THEM ABOUT THEIR CRUISE MISSILE PROGRAMS AND
THEY SAID THEY ONLY HAVE A SYSTEM CALLED
P3T.

10. ENDED WITH A SUPERB LUNCH AT STREATOR'S WHICH DID
EVEN MORE FOR US-BRITISH RELATIONS.

STREATOR UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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